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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its twenty-ninth session

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on 16-17 January and 13-16 June 1997

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INTRODUCTION

1. The twenty-ninth session of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 16-17 January and 13-16 June 1997. In the course of the session, the Working Party held four (116th-119th) plenary meetings and a number of informal meetings.

Chapter I

REVIEW OF THE UNCTAD SECTION OF THE PROPOSED UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

(Agenda item 3)

A. Proceedings of the first part of the Working Party's session, 16-17 January 1997

2. For its deliberations on this item at the first part of its session, the Working Party had before it the following documentation:

Proposed revisions to the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997: informal draft presented by the UNCTAD secretariat;

UNCTAD section of the proposed United Nations programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999: informal draft presented by the UNCTAD secretariat;

Proposed publications for 1998-1999: informal note prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat.

3. The **Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD**, in an introductory statement, said that, with regard to the 1996-1997 programme of work, the revised draft before the Working Party took account of the written comments sent by delegations in response to the invitation issued by the Chairman of the Working Party at its twenty-eighth session (TD/B/WP/99, para. 23). Where, in the view of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, those comments reflected a consensus, they had been incorporated. Estimates of expenditures during the first nine months of the 1996-1997 biennium indicated that UNCTAD would underspend by some 13 per cent in relation to its appropriation for the biennium.

4. The principal task of the Working Party was, however, to agree on the work programme for the 1998-1999 biennium. The informal draft before the Working Party, which covered the narrative for that biennium, would be finalized for the review of the Secretary-General of the United Nations taking into account the views expressed by the Working Party at the first part of its session. At the second part of its session, the Working Party would have an opportunity to review the official programme budget covering UNCTAD as proposed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Assembly. The views expressed by the Working Party at that time would be transmitted directly to the Committee on Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

5. The information supplied to the Working Party included detailed data on the publications referred to in the draft narrative for 1998-1999. Those data had also been supplied to the Publications Board at United Nations Headquarters for review. Publications were included in the proposed programme budget in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, under which legislative mandates for publications were provided by requests and directives contained in resolutions and decisions of intergovernmental bodies. In addition, the medium-term plan also provided a

legislative mandate for new activities proposed by the Secretary-General in fulfilment of a general objective of the United Nations. For UNCTAD, publications represented an essential component of the organization's strategy for promoting the integration of the developing countries into the world economy, and the Secretary-General attached the highest importance to UNCTAD's publication programme.

6. The draft programme narrative for 1998-1999 was based on the five subprogrammes of the medium-term plan approved by the General Assembly for the period 1998-2001. Within each subprogramme, activities were categorized and cited in accordance with the standard presentation and nomenclature of the United Nations programme budget.

Informal meetings

7. The Working Party pursued its consideration of agenda item 3 in private informal meetings.

Action by the Working Party

8. At the closing (117th) plenary meeting of the first part of its twenty-ninth session, the Working Party adopted a decision (for the text of the decision, see annex I). It also approved the annexation of the Chairman's summary to the report of its session (for the text of the summary, see annex II).

Closing statements

9. The spokesman for the **African Group** (Morocco) expressed his Group's concern with regard to documentation and the organization of work of the Working Party. It was hoped that, at the Working Party's future sessions, the organization of work would be improved and that documentation would be made available in an appropriate form, in good time and in all official languages.

10. The representative of the **Netherlands**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, said that it had not been wise to divide the Working Party's session into two parts, since it would not be possible to examine UNCTAD's work programme in detail at either part. The working methods of the Working Party should be seriously reconsidered.

B. Proceedings of the second part of the Working Party's session, 13-16 June 1997

11. For its deliberations on this item at the second part of its session, the Working Party had before it the following documentation:

"Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999: Part IV - International cooperation for development: Section 11A. Trade and Development" (A/52/6 (Sect. 11A));

"Results of the survey on UNCTAD publications in the proposed programme budget for 1998-1999" (UNCTAD/ISS/Misc.47).

12. The representative of **France** said that the Working Party's session was too short and clashed with other meetings. This should be avoided in future.

13. The spokesman for the **African Group** (Morocco), supporting France, said that the way in which the session was being organized was not adequate, though preparations for the session had been satisfactory.

14. The spokesman for the **Latin American and Caribbean Group** (Mexico) regretted the fact that the late submission of documentation had led to constant postponements of the session.

15. The representative of the **Netherlands**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, regretted that the documentation for the session had been made available so late and that the session was so short. This should be avoided in future.

16. The representative of **China** said that the documentation for the session was late and was available in English only. It was hoped that this would not occur again.

17. The **Officer-in-charge of UNCTAD** said that, in line with the legal opinion of the United Nations Legal Counsel, the Working Party received the same information as that provided to CPC and ACABQ. The proposed programme budget for UNCTAD conformed to a standard presentation for the entire United Nations Secretariat, and it included all activities of the UNCTAD secretariat, whether financed from the regular budget or from extrabudgetary resources. The planned overall reduction of 53 regular budget posts resulted partly from the restructuring of the UNCTAD secretariat following UNCTAD IX and partly from the decision of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to undertake a further reduction of 1,000 United Nations posts. The reduction in UNCTAD's staff resources would be somewhat compensated by an increase of approximately $1.3 million for advisory services under section 21 of the proposed programme budget covering the regular programme of technical cooperation. With regard to paragraph 11A.11 of the proposed programme budget, the decisions to incorporate the Commission on Transnational Corporations (CTC) into UNCTAD had not provided guidance on how to handle the budget provision for travel of experts to CTC meetings. It remained for the General Assembly to decide on the matter.

18. The representative of the **Netherlands**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, asked whether the negative recosting in the proposed programme budget was based on an assumption of negative inflation.

19. The **representative of the UNCTAD secretariat** said that it reflected reductions in resource levels.

20. The spokesman for the **Latin American and Caribbean Group** (Mexico) asked whether the recosting exercise took account of possible salary increases and promotions in the secretariat.

21. The **representative of the UNCTAD secretariat** said salary costs were based on standard post costs. Any changes required as a result of promotions and salary increases would be reflected in a budget re-evaluation in the course of the biennium, if necessary.

22. The representative of the **United Kingdom** asked to what extent the UNCTAD budget would be affected if current exchange rates were applied.

23. The **representative of the UNCTAD secretariat** said that the General Assembly was informed of exchange rate changes in the course of a biennium and the programme budget could be recosted if necessary. If current exchange rate trends continued, the budget would be adjusted downwards.

24. The representative of **South Africa** said that, although the Commission on Transnational Corporations had been absorbed into UNCTAD's intergovernmental machinery, it still had a fictitious life of its own in the budget. While the allocation in question should not be lost, the budget should be brought into line with reality.

25. The spokesman for the **Latin American and Caribbean Group** (Mexico) said that the proposed programme budget provided for a real negative growth rate of 4.3 per cent, and this was a matter of concern given the challenge facing UNCTAD in terms of helping developing countries benefit from globalization and liberalization. While savings were to be generated through the rationalization of UNCTAD's intergovernmental machinery and the focusing of its activities, the concept of savings must be seen in the context of Midrand and the need to strengthen programmes of interest to developing countries and particularly LDCs. Part of the savings resulting from post cuts, streamlining of meetings and exchange rate adjustments should be reallocated to UNCTAD to enhance its delivery capacity. More specifically, the Working Party should recommend to the General Assembly that it request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to use $1.4 million of released resources to finance from the regular budget the participation of developing country experts in UNCTAD expert meetings, and this in addition to the recently established trust fund. The participation of developing country experts in meetings was the cornerstone of the new institutional framework of UNCTAD and must have predictable funding. The funding of the travel costs of the experts for the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues provided a legal precedent and a budgetary basis for the suggestion.

26. The spokesman for the **African Group** (Morocco) expressed broad support for the statement of Mexico. The negative growth rate of the UNCTAD budget must not affect UNCTAD's development programmes. The savings derived from the restructuring of UNCTAD's secretariat and intergovernmental machinery should be used to finance the participation of experts in UNCTAD meetings and other UNCTAD activities. With regard to the programme of work on assistance to the Palestinian people, as requested by the General Assembly this programme should be pursued at the same or a higher level of intensity. The special situation of the Palestinian people required special action.

27. The representative of **Chile** expressed support for the statement made by Mexico on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group. His delegation wanted to highlight the fact that there was a reduction in the proposed programme budget for UNCTAD for 1998-1999 of US$ 4.5 million in relation to the previous biennium. Moreover, according to the information given by the secretariat, the savings on conference services, after the restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery at UNCTAD IX, were around US$ 1.3 million, and this amount was not reflected in the proposed budget. The General Assembly and the Trade and Development Board had asked for a report on how part of the savings due to restructuring and greater focusing of the work programme could be reinvested in UNCTAD activities, in accordance with paragraphs 103 and 107 (a) of "A Partnership for Growth and Development". Some of the savings should be used to finance the participation of developing country experts in UNCTAD's 10 annual expert meetings; if 16 experts were financed for each meeting, the total cost

would be US$ 1.4 million, and the Working Party should recommend that such a sum be approved for that purpose.

28. The spokesman for the **Asian Group** (Sri Lanka) expressed support for the proposals of Mexico and Morocco.

29. The representative of **China** said that the proposed programme budget for UNCTAD reflected the basic spirit of Midrand. However, the purpose of reform was not just to cut costs; it was also to enhance efficiency. The reduction in the regular budget of UNCTAD should therefore be compensated for by extrabudgetary resources and improved efficiency. In addition, part of the savings resulting from reduced expenditure should be reinvested in UNCTAD activities and in particular should be used to fund developing country experts. With regard to ISAR, the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts should continue to exist in addition to the 10 expert meetings allowed annually, and provision for ISAR should therefore be included in the regular budget. Finally, China endorsed the position of the African Group concerning assistance to the Palestinian people.

30. The representative of **Ethiopia** said that the balance of the outcome of the deliberations of expert meetings depended on the balance of the participation in the meetings, and in the meetings held so far the LDCs and in particular African LDCs had not been adequately represented. This could not continue. With regard to the proposal to use savings to find developing country experts, special emphasis should be placed on experts having to travel long distances.

31. The representative of the **Netherlands**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, said that some of the suggestions made should be discussed by the Trade and Development Board. The European Union did not necessarily accept the basis on which those suggestions were made. Although Midrand had not been a cost-cutting exercise, it should be no surprise that the rationalization of UNCTAD's mandate and the restructuring of the secretariat would lead to a reduced budget.

32. The representative of the **United States of America** regretted that the need for prioritization was not accepted by some delegations. He expressed his delegation's desire to receive detailed 1998-1999 resource use information, as indicated earlier by the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, for consideration by the Working Party at its next session. Concerning assistance to the Palestinian people, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had given assurances that work on that issue would continue, and the proposed programme budget provided no evidence to the contrary. With regard to the Secretary-General's restructuring, he noted that, while posts were to be abolished, most of them were vacant, and there would be no substantive impact on UNCTAD's work.

Informal meetings

33. The working Party pursued its consideration of agenda item 3 in private informal meetings.

Action by the Working Party

34. At its closing (119th) plenary meeting, on 16 June 1997, the Working Party adopted its draft agreed conclusions and agreed to annex the Chairman's summary to its report. (For the agreed conclusions and Chairman's summary, see annex III).

Chapter II

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the session

35. The twenty-ninth session of the Working Party was opened on 16 January 1997 by Mr. Dilip Sinha (India), Chairman of the Working Party at its twenty-eighth session.

B. Election of officers

(Agenda item 1)

36. At its 116th (opening) plenary meeting, on 16 January 1997, the Working Party elected Mr. Niels Buch (Norway) as its Chairman and Mr. Alejandro Rogers (Chile) as its Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 2)

37. Also at its 116th plenary meeting, the Working Party adopted the provisional agenda for its twenty-ninth session (TD/B/WP/100). The agenda was thus as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of the UNCTAD section of the proposed United Nations programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999
4. Provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Working Party
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

38. In connection with the adoption of the agenda, it was agreed that the proposed revisions to the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 would be discussed under agenda item 3.

D. Provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Working Party

(Agenda item 4)

39. At the closing (119th) plenary meeting of the second part of the session, the Working Party approved the provisional agenda for its thirtieth session, as follows:

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing

4. Evaluation of technical cooperation programmes:

   (a) In-depth study on TRAINFORTRADE

   (b) In-depth study on DMFAS

5. Provisional agenda for the thirty-first session of the Working Party

6. Other business

7. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board.

40. The Working Party was informed that its thirtieth session would be held in two parts. The first part, scheduled for October 1997, would deal with item 3 of the provisional agenda and the second part, scheduled for December 1997, would deal with item 4.

41. The representative of the **United States of America** said that the secretariat had undertaken to provide detailed data on man-months for UNCTAD activities during the 1998-1999 biennium. Those data should be discussed at the Working Party's thirtieth session.

42. The **Chairman** said that the matter could be taken up under item 6 of the provisional agenda.

E. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

(Agenda item 6)

43. At its closing (119th) plenary meeting of the second part of the session, on 16 June 1997, the Working Party authorized the Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chairman, to prepare the report on its twenty-ninth session.

Annex I

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE WORKING PARTY AT THE FIRST PART OF ITS TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

The Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget,

Decides to endorse the proposed revisions to UNCTAD's programme of work for 1996-1997 presented to it by the UNCTAD secretariat at the first part of its twenty-ninth session on the understanding that:

(a) The amendments set out in the annex to the present decision be incorporated into the text of the proposed revisions;

(b) UNCTAD's publications policy is currently under review.

Annex

1. *Add the following to the chapeau of each of Subprogrammes 9.1 to 9.4:*

UNCTAD IX decided that LDCs will constitute a cross-cutting issue in work of UNCTAD. In accordance with this decision, each activity under this Subprogramme will give priority consideration to LDC issues, and the Sub-programme as a whole will provide the required sectoral inputs within its scope to the activities under Sub-programme 9.5.

2. *Add the following to the chapeau of Subprogramme 9.5:*

It is noted that the Division for the Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries has been discontinued as part of the reorganization of the UNCTAD Secretariat. The implementation of the Sub-programme will be coordinated by the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries. In accordance with the outcome of UNCTAD IX, LDCs will constitute a cross-cutting issue in UNCTAD's work and the sectoral issues will be dealt with by the Divisions of UNCTAD within their respective mandates.

Annex II

CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY RELATING TO THE FIRST PART OF THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

1. At the first part of its twenty-ninth session, the Working Party discussed the proposed revisions to the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 and the UNCTAD section of the proposed United Nations programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

Proposed revisions to the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997

2. The purpose of the Working Party's discussion, which was based on an informal draft presented by the UNCTAD secretariat, was to endorse the proposed revisions in order to provide a basis for the secretariat's work in 1997 and for the evaluation of UNCTAD's performance at the end of the biennium.

3. Members of the Working Party noted that, at the Working Party's previous session, they had been requested to provide the secretariat with written comments on the proposed revisions and expressed their disappointment that a number of their comments had not been taken into account. The UNCTAD secretariat explained that its task had been to include changes that reflected a consensus among the members of the Working Party. Accordingly, the suggestions that had not been included were those that, in the view of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, did not command consensus.

4. At the close of its discussions, the Working Party, notwithstanding member States' concerns on individual items, adopted a decision endorsing the proposed revisions, as amended.

UNCTAD section of the proposed United Nations programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

5. The Working Party's discussions in this connection took place within the context of paragraph 107(a) of the "Partnership for growth and development" in which the Secretary-General of UNCTAD was invited to consult with the Working Party during the preparation of the work programme and budget from the earliest possible stage. The purpose of its discussions, which were based on an informal draft presented by the UNCTAD secretariat, was to provide the Secretary-General of UNCTAD with comments and advice prior to the submission of the draft to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for incorporation into the proposed programme budget as a whole.

6. The members of the Working Party made a number of general and specific comments and suggestions on the draft. Among other things, they referred to the need to ensure maximum consistency between the presentation and wording of the different sections of the draft, particularly in respect of expert meetings and meeting units, as well as to ensure adequate reference in each subprogramme to the subprogramme's contribution to UNCTAD's work on least developed countries.

A request was also made for greater clarity regarding the mandate and funding of specific items of the work programme and the nature of UNCTAD's contribution to those projects undertaken in conjunction with other agencies or institutions.

7. The UNCTAD secretariat assured the members of the Working Party that all their comments and suggestions would be fully considered and would be reflected in the draft to the maximum extent possible when the draft was finalized by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD. The Working Party would conduct its formal consideration of the UNCTAD section of the proposed programme budget, as approved by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the second part of its twenty-ninth session. The secretariat also agreed to provide, in the near future, additional resource-use information on the members of the secretariat and their responsibility and on the individual activities of each division.

8. The Working Party made several comments with regard to the issue of UNCTAD publications, and a number of broad issues were raised by several countries. On publications, one view was that comments on specific publications in the work programme for 1998-1999 could best be made at the second part of its session when the results of UNCTAD's review of its publications policy would be known. Another view was that specific publications should not be discussed in the Working Party; they should be taken up by the competent body. A proposal was made to the effect that the secretariat should conduct a survey of member States to determine their views on UNCTAD publications.

9. The members of the Working Party requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to ensure that the amendments set out in the annex to this summary be incorporated into the revised draft of the proposed programme narrative.

Annex

1. *Add the following to the chapeau of each of Subprogrammes 9.1 to 9.4:*

UNCTAD IX decided that LDCs will constitute a cross-cutting issue in work of UNCTAD. In accordance with this decision, each activity under this Subprogramme will give priority consideration to LDC issues, and the Sub-programme as a whole will provide the required sectoral inputs within its scope to the activities under Sub-programme 9.5.

2. *Add the following to the chapeau of Subprogramme 9.5:*

It is noted that the Division for the Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries has been discontinued as part of the reorganization of the UNCTAD Secretariat. The implementation of the Sub-programme will be coordinated by the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries. In accordance with the outcome of UNCTAD IX, LDCs will constitute a cross-cutting issue in UNCTAD's work and the sectoral issues will be dealt with by the Divisions of UNCTAD within their respective mandates.

Annex III

AGREED CONCLUSIONS AND CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY RELATING TO THE SECOND PART OF THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

(i) At the first part of its twenty-ninth session, from 16 to 17 January 1997, the Working Party reviewed the work programme of UNCTAD for the 1998-1999 biennium in the light of paragraph 107 (a) of "A Partnership for Growth and Development" which invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD "to consult with the Working Party during the preparation of the work programme and budget from the earliest possible stage." For this purpose, the Working Party had before it a non-paper containing a draft programme of work.

(ii) At the second part of its twenty-ninth session, held on 13 and 16 June 1997, the Working Party had before it the unedited version of the United Nations Secretary-General's proposed programme budget covering UNCTAD for the 1998-1999 biennium.

(iii) The Working Party agreed to request the Chairman to transmit forthwith the agreed conclusions and Chairman's summary which follow to the respective chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) in order for both bodies to be in a position to take into account the Working Party's deliberations when they review the UNCTAD section of the proposed programme budget for 1998-1999 later in June 1997.

Agreed conclusions

1. The Working Party agreed that section 11A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 provided an adequate basis for UNCTAD to carry out its mandate in the light of the outcome of UNCTAD IX and the medium-term plan as adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

2. The Working Party reconfirmed LDCs as an important cross-cutting issue to be worked upon actively by all parts of the UNCTAD secretariat and in that context agreed that the coordinating role of the Office of the Special Coordinator for LDCs should be emphasized in the proposed programme budget.

3. The Working Party agreed on the need for greater clarity between activities funded from the regular budget and those funded from extrabudgetary sources.

4. The Working Party agreed that there should be greater consistency in the proposed programme budget.

5. The Working Party agreed that the important role and related activities of Intergovernmental Support Services should be fully reflected in the proposed programme budget.

6. The Working Party noted the importance placed by member States on the cooperation between UNCTAD, WTO and ITC. The Working Party therefore agreed that, for consistency, reference to WTO and ITC should be included in item 11A.20(c).

Chairman's summary

1. The information provided by the secretariat showed significant savings in the 1998-1999 biennium as compared to the 1996-1997 and 1994-1995 biennia. These economies had resulted from the strengthening of the US dollar, reductions in posts and intergovernmental meetings, and underspending by UNCTAD.

2. These savings appeared despite the inclusion of UNCTAD's US$ 2 million share of the operational costs of the International Computing Centre, which had previously been included under a different United Nations budget section. Some delegations did not appreciate this new inclusion and queried the inconsistent treatment of this central service as compared to other central services such as UNOG's Conference Services.

3. In the light of the outcome of UNCTAD IX, in particular paragraphs 103 and 107(a) of "A Partnership for Growth and Development," and General Assembly resolution 51/167, a number of delegations urged UNCTAD's Secretary-General to present, as soon as possible, the report on savings and their possible reallocation which had been requested by the General Assembly and the Trade and Development Board. Moreover, several delegations expressed strong support for the proposal to rechannel US$ 1.4 million of the savings to finance the participation of 16 experts from developing countries in each of the 10 annual expert meetings of the UNCTAD Commissions. They noted that, even with this inclusion, UNCTAD's budget would still show significant negative growth. Other delegations rejected this idea, referring *inter alia* to the Trust Fund established for this purpose.

4. Member countries expressed different views on the status of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) within the framework of UNCTAD and the proposed programme budget. However, there was a common understanding among member countries that the subject of ISAR was under review by the President of the Trade and Development Board through consultations. The existence of a budget line for ISAR activities was without prejudice to any final decision on the matter. The final decision reached could therefore require additional budgetary allocations to be made available.

5. Questions were raised about the number and nature of the 53 posts cut. Some member States expressed concern about the high ratio of professional to general service posts being abolished, and hoped that this would not adversely affect UNCTAD's analytical work. Other delegations queried the reasons for abolishing regular posts while simultaneously increasing expenditure for consultants and experts.

6. Some delegations felt that while the overall budget for official travel was lower than for the previous biennium, the reduction of 53 posts should lead to a lower budget for official travel than that being proposed. In addition, the distribution of the travel budget appeared to lack balance. This was particularly so in the case of the Office of the Special Coordinator for LDCs, whose travel budget seemed disproportionately high. It was explained that this item included LDC-related travel of staff from other subprogrammes.

7. Several delegations stated firmly that UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people should continue undiminished.

8. A few member States expressed concern over the inconsistent treatment of questions related to small island and transit developing countries in the proposed programme budget, which could hamper the future approach to these issues.

9. A number of delegations wished to see greater consistency in the terminology of the proposed programme budget as it related to meetings and meeting units.

10. Some member States felt that each subprogramme should show clear objectives and the expected results of its activities. Moreover, the proposed budget should reflect the need for a systematic programme of evaluation of UNCTAD's operational activities – particularly technical cooperation – for which adequate resources should be provided.

11. One delegation expressed the opinion that the programme budget presentation and format did not adequately or clearly portray UNCTAD and its activities. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was urged to adopt on a timely basis a more realistic and understandable format for future UNCTAD programme budgets.

12. Some member States expressed gratitude to the UNCTAD secretariat for its diligent efforts to restructure and reform.

Annex IV

ATTENDANCE */

1. The following States members of UNCTAD, members of the Working Party, were represented at the session:

Australia
Argentina
Bulgaria
Chile
China
Ethiopia
Germany
Iran, Islamic Republic of
Japan
Mexico
Morocco
Norway
Philippines
Poland
Russian Federation
South Africa
Sri Lanka
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America

2. The following other States members of UNCTAD, not members of the Working Party, were represented as observers at the session:

Algeria
Angola
Austria
Bangladesh
Belarus
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Costa Rica
Cuba
Ecuador
Egypt
Finland
France
India
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Kazakstan
Kyrgyzstan
Madagascar
Malaysia
Malta
Myanmar
Nepal
Netherlands
Pakistan
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Yemen
Zambia

3. Palestine participated at the session as an observer.

4. The following international organization participated at the session:

World Trade Organization

5. The following intergovernmental organization participated at the session:

Organization of African Unity

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*/ For list of participants, see TD/B/WP/INF.35.

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